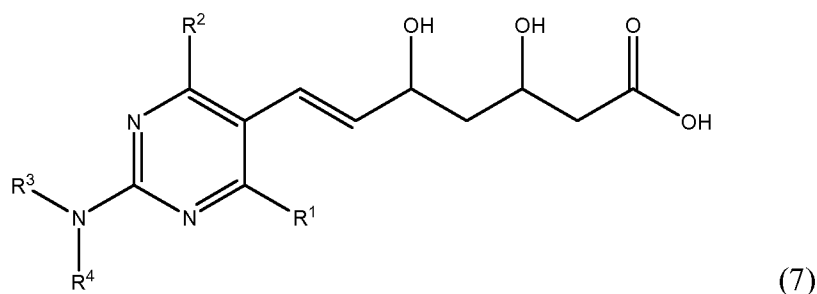


IN THE CLAIMS

Please replace all previous versions, and listings, of the claims with the following, where any added text is indicated by underlining and any deleted text is indicated by strikethrough or double square bracketing.

1. **(currently amended)** A process for the preparation of a compound of formula (7):



wherein

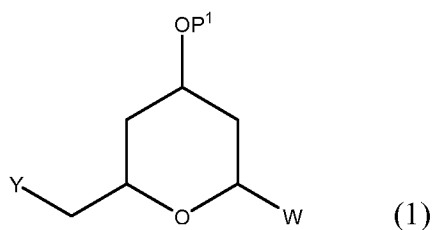
R¹ represents an alkyl group;

R² represents an aryl group;

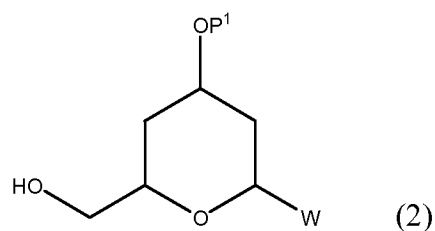
R³ represents hydrogen, a protecting group or an alkyl group; and

R⁴ represents hydrogen, a protecting group or a SO₂R⁵ group where R⁵ is an alkyl group, comprising the steps of:

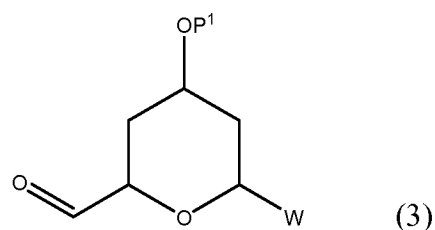
- a) hydroxylating a compound of formula (1):



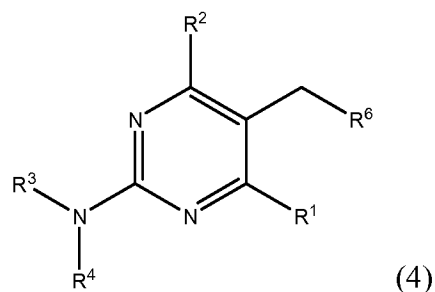
wherein Y represents a halo group; P¹ represents hydrogen or a protecting group, and W represents $[[=O]] \equiv \text{O}$ or -OP², in which P² represents hydrogen or a protecting group, to give a compound of formula (2):



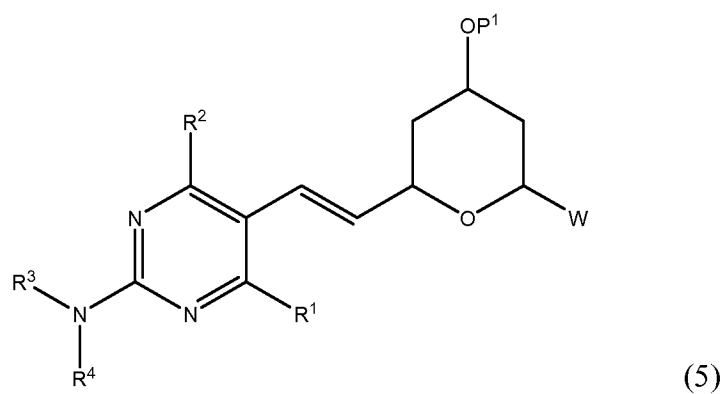
b) oxidising the compound of formula (2) to give a compound of formula (3):



c) coupling the compound of formula (3) with a compound of formula (4):

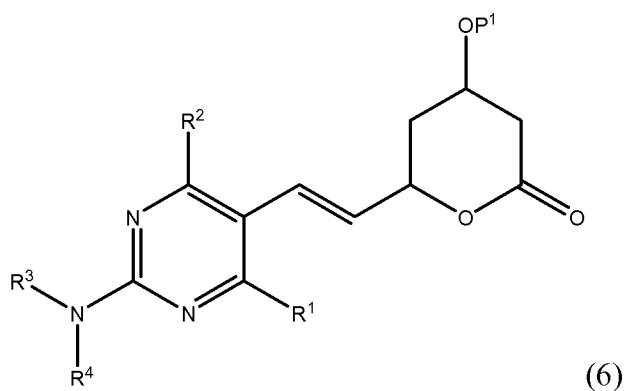


wherein R³ represents a protecting group or an alkyl group; R⁴ represents a protecting group or a SO₂R⁵ group where R⁵ is an alkyl group; and R⁶ represents (PR⁷R⁸)⁺X⁻ or P(=O)R⁷R⁸ in which X is an anion and R⁷ and R⁸ each independently is an alkyl, aryl, alkoxy or aryloxy group, to give a compound of formula (5):



wherein R³ represents a protecting group or an alkyl group; and R⁴ represents a protecting group or a SO₂R⁵ group where R⁵ is an alkyl group,

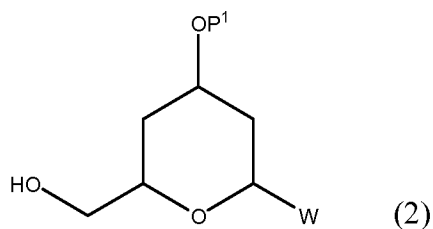
d) when W represents -OP², removing any P² protecting group and oxidising the compound of formula (5) to give a compound of formula (6):



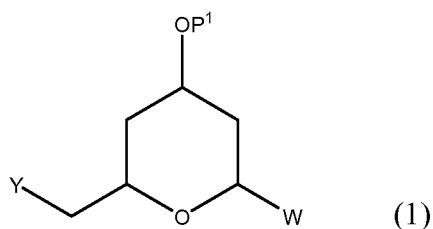
and

e) subjecting the compound of formula (5) when W represents $[[=O]] \equiv O$, or compound of formula (6) to ring-opening, removal of any P¹ protecting groups, and optionally removing any additional protecting groups to give a compound of formula (7).

2. **(currently amended)** A process for the preparation of a compound of formula (2):

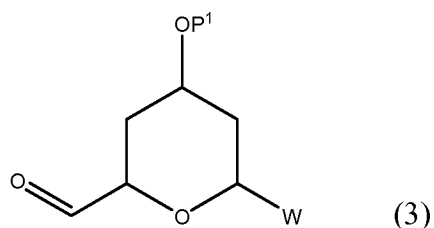


comprising the step of hydroxylating a compound of formula (1):

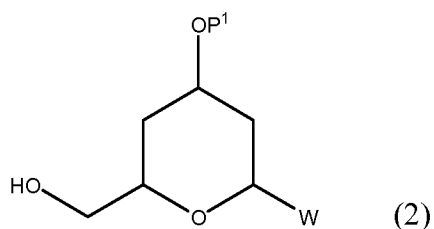


wherein Y represents a halo group; P¹ represents hydrogen or a protecting group, and W represents $[[=O]] \equiv O$ or -OP², in which P² represents hydrogen or a protecting group.

3. **(currently amended)** A process for the preparation of a compound of formula (3):

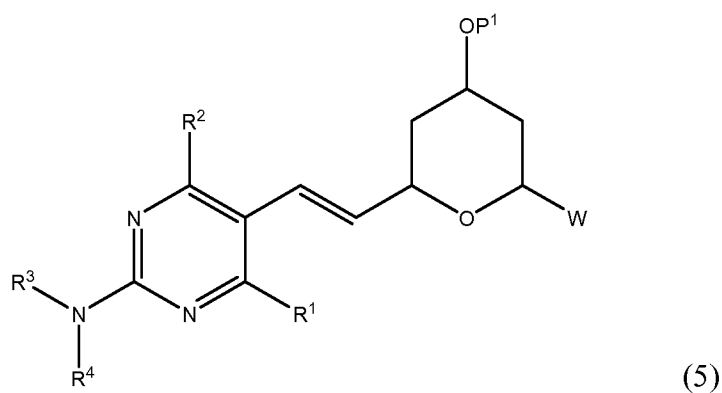


comprising the step of oxidising a compound of formula (2):

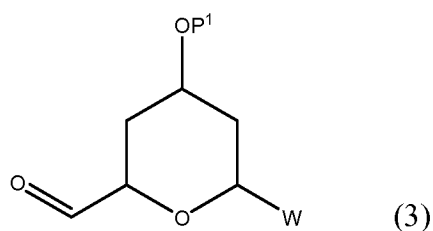


wherein P¹ represents hydrogen or a protecting group, and W represents $[[=O]] \equiv O$ or -OP², in which P² represents hydrogen or a protecting group.

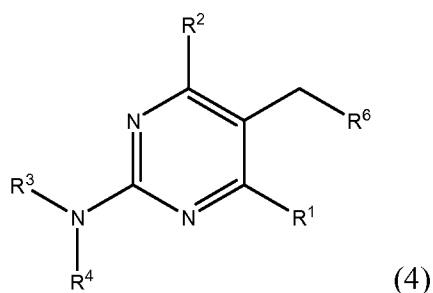
4. **(currently amended)** A process for the preparation of a compound of formula (5):



comprising the step of coupling a compound of formula (3):



with a compound of formula (4):



wherein

R¹ represents an alkyl group;

R² represents an aryl group;

R³ represents a protecting group or an alkyl group;

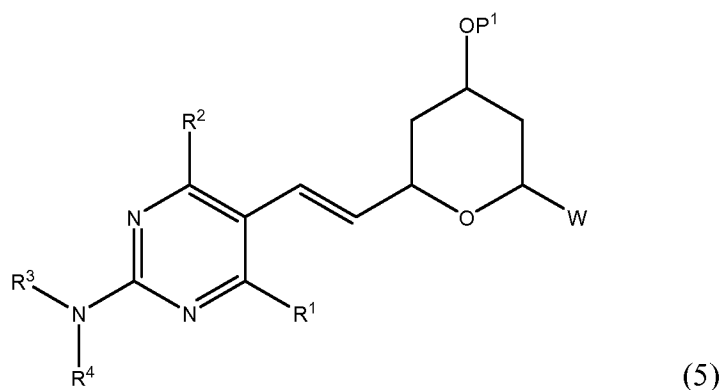
R⁴ represents a protecting group or a SO₂R⁵ group where R⁵ is an alkyl group; and

R⁶ represents (PR⁷R⁸)⁺X⁻ or P(=O)R⁷R⁸ in which X is an anion and R⁷ and R⁸ each independently is an alkyl, aryl, alkoxy or aryloxy group,

P² represents hydrogen or a protecting group; and

W represents [[=O]] \equiv O or -OP², in which P² represents hydrogen or a protecting group.

5. **(currently amended)** A compound of formula (5):



wherein

R¹ represents an alkyl group;

R² represents an aryl group;

R³ represents hydrogen, a protecting group or an alkyl group;

R⁴ represents a protecting group or a SO₂R⁵ group where R⁵ is an alkyl group;

P¹ represents hydrogen or a protecting group; and

W represents $[[=O]] \equiv \underline{\text{O}}$ or -OP², in which P² represents hydrogen or a protecting group.

6. **(previously presented)** The process or compound of claim 1, 4, or 5, wherein R¹ represents independently for each occurrence a C₁₋₆ alkyl group.
7. **(previously presented)** The process or compound of claim 1, 4, or 5, wherein R¹ represents independently for each occurrence an isopropyl group.
8. **(previously presented)** The process or compound of claim 1, 4, or 5, wherein R² represents independently for each occurrence a 4-fluorophenyl group.
9. **(previously presented)** The process or compound of claim 1, 4, or 5, wherein R³ represents independently for each occurrence a C₁₋₆ alkyl group.
10. **(previously presented)** The process or compound of claim 1, 4, or 5, wherein R³ represents independently for each occurrence a methyl group.
11. **(previously presented)** The process of claim 1 or 2, wherein Y represents independently for each occurrence Cl or Br.

12. **(previously presented)** The process or compound of claim 1, 4, or 5, wherein R⁵ represents independently for each occurrence a C₁₋₆ alkyl group.
13. **(previously presented)** The process or compound of claim 1, 4, or 5, wherein R⁵ represents independently for each occurrence a methyl group.
14. **(previously presented)** The process of claim 1 or 4, wherein R⁷ and R⁸ represent Ph.